

# Botsford Inn makes bid for history's register

By MARY GNIEWEK

The Botsford Inn in Farmington Hills may soon achieve a claim to fame that no other Michigan hotel can match — not even the Grand Hotel on Mackinac Island.

It may become the oldest operating inn in Michigan on the National Register of Historic Places. The original core of the building was established in 1836.

The two-story white frame structure,

set back from Grand River by a white fence and tall shade trees, was nominated to the National Register by the Michigan History Division of the Department of State.

Once entered on the Register, Botsford Inn will become eligible for federal preservation grants aimed at protecting buildings significant in American history.

"There's lots of excitement about it.

It's quite an honor," said innkeeper John Anhut.

He credited the recognition to the nine-member Farmington Hills Historical Commission and especially to vice chairman Kay Briggs for bringing the 145-year-old landmark to the attention of state officials.

Anhut has operated the inn for 28 years. It was purchased from Seaboard Properties, a personal real estate holding company of auto magnate Henry Ford and his wife, Clara. Many of the Fords' own pieces of furniture and bric-a-brac still adorn the place.

"HENRY FORD saved the inn originally," Anhut said. "It was built on Old Plank Road and the highway department wanted to pave the street. (Botsford Inn was a favorite stagecoach stop on the old road to Lansing.) Ford moved the inn back 500 feet from the road."

Mrs. Briggs said Ford was emotionally attached to the inn where he courted his future wife, Clara, and thus be-

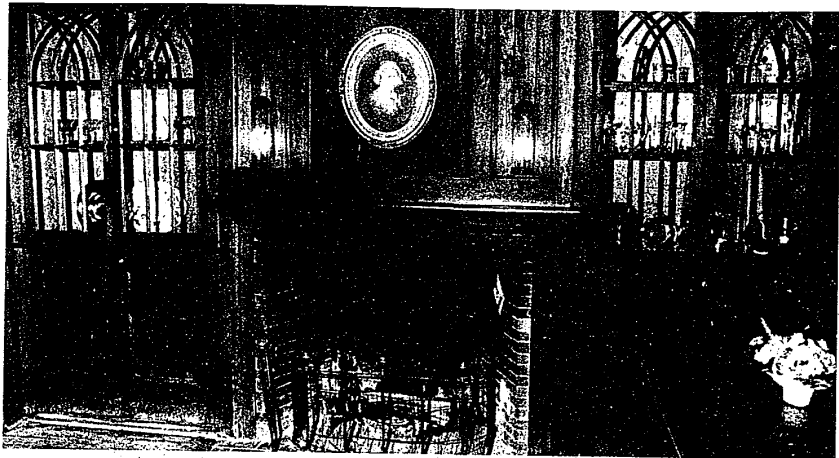


Rare crystal and antique bottles dot the inn which is furnished by decorative furniture. (Staff photo by Harry Mauthe)

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Innkeeper John Anhut keeps an eye on his historic business. (Staff photo)



Fireplaces warm many of the rooms as was the case in days before modern heating techniques. (Staff photo)

## THE INSIDE \* ANGLE

**CONGRATULATIONS TO** Farmington Hills resident Elliot Altenburg, who was honored for 22 years service to the H.F. Campbell Co. recently. He was honored at the company's Golden Anniversary dinner, which was at the Dearborn Country Club. He currently is the director of the firm's purchasing department. A Detroit native, Altenburg is a member of the Engineering Society of Detroit.

**CIVIL AIR PATROL** cadets from the Farmington squadron recently took orientation flights flown out of Mettetal Airport. They were David Crowton, Phil Ellyson, Tim Haller, Gregory Messer, James Potocki, Roth Sniely, Mike Sulek and Beth Wadsworth. As part of the Civil Air Patrol aerospace program the cadets made pre-flight safety inspections of aircraft, learned the purpose of aircraft instruments while in actual flight and performed aircraft maneuvers under senior member pilot supervision.

**BRIDGET BROOKER**, also of Farmington Hills, has won an award in National AAA's 35th annual school traffic safety poster contest. Her poster, "See and Be Seen," took a second place. She is a 15-year-old freshman at Our Lady of Mercy High School. She was awarded a \$75 U.S. Savings Bond. Bridget was among 11 Michigan residents who won \$850 of the \$9,000 awarded nationally.

**YOUNG REPUBLICAN** Larry Lichtman and wife Holly Ann will be off to Arlington, Va., in June to attend the College Republican National Convention. The convention is expected to draw more than 300 students from across the country to hear speakers who include Senate Minority Leader Howard Baker. The convention will feature seminars training college students in the techniques of grass roots organization, press relation and campaign management. Larry is the son of former Farmington Hills Councilman Fred Lichtman.

**SEVEN STUDENTS** from Warner Junior High School recently competed in the state forensics tournament at the University of Michigan. Bill Handler gave a strong showing in the informative category with his talk about aerodynamics. JoAnn Toth, a seventh grader, earned an exemplary certificate in the humorous category for her readings from Erna Bombeck. Eighth grader Bill Smith earned an exemplary certificate for his rendition from a reading of H.R. Tolkien in the serious speaking event. Don Jean, a ninth grader, scored well near the top and also earned an exemplary certificate in the impromptu speaking event. Marguerite Tom, also a ninth grader, in her first state competition took home the third place trophy in the oratory event. Amy Alkon, for the second time in a row, earned second place honors in the state in the impromptu speaking event. Beth Noteman, a seventh grader, earned a perfect 300 score for her animated interpretation of "The Three Bears." This earned her a first place in the storytelling competition. Statewide competition is held two times a year on the University of Michigan campus. Approximately 625 students from 25 schools attended the spring tournament.

**THE YWCA** of Western Wayne County Support Group for Divorced Women, is presenting a divorce overview on May 31, from 7:30-9:30 p.m. at the Rosedale Presbyterian Church, 9601 Hubbard, Livonia. The featured speaker will be attorney Margaret Barton. She will discuss general legal procedures and will answer questions on the process of divorce.

### DEADLINE

Material submitted to the Inside Angles, 23352 Farmington Road, Farmington 48024, should include the name and phone number of the sender. Typewritten notices are appreciated, but not required. Items should be received at least one week before publication. Photos can't be used.

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DIANE VON FURSTENBERG LOOKS ON THE LIGHT SIDE OF SUMMER WITH CLOUD-COOL COTTON DRESSING. To wit, the tattersall-check side-wrap in pale multi colors on white. A classic example of her clean-line design, done with trendy new twists like bright red piping and soft bodice tucking. \$78. Just one from a very cool cotton collection, in misses' sizes from The Woodward Shops.

HUDSON'S

cotton-shirt dressing

**SENIOR CITIZENS** interested in getting ID cards to take advantage of the discounts offered by Oakland County merchants, from 4 to 25 percent, can receive them by going to Lincoln Towers, 15075 Lincoln, Oak Park on June 7, from 1-4 p.m. Staff of the Oakland-Livinston Human Service Agency will be available to take photographs of seniors for identification cards. To be eligible a senior must be 60 years of age or older and an Oakland County resident.